

NEWS

for immediate release



MARICOPA COUNTY
Environmental Services Department
1001 N. Central, Suite 550
Phoenix, AZ 85004

April 29, 1999
Contact: William Kicksey OR Shelia Brott-Loewe at 506-1148
Courtney James, Public Information - 506-6948

Smoking Vehicle Program Switches to County ***New number to report smoking vehicles***

Frustrated by cars spewing tailpipe smoke? Pick up the telephone and report it to the Maricopa County Environmental Response Line at (602) 506-6616. Maricopa County has added the Smoking Vehicle Program to their Environmental Response Line, which accepts other types of environmental complaints. Operators will begin to take calls on Monday, May 3, 1999.

Operators at the other end of the line will take down the license plate number and send out a letter informing the owner that their car was reportedly emitting smoke and to have it repaired.

Emissions from motor vehicles are the number one source of air pollution in the Phoenix metropolitan area.

"One of the best ways to prevent pollution is to properly maintain your vehicle so it doesn't become a public health nuisance," said Fulton Brock, Board of Supervisor Chairman.

There are no penalties or fines placed on the owner who is reported to the hotline. However, driving an excessive smoking vehicle is against the law and can lead to a citation. Maricopa County Environmental Services Department recently assumed the program from the state and anticipates an additional 300 calls a week to their current 1700 calls a month.

To report a smoking vehicle or other types of environmental complaints call 506-6616.